

AMENDED CLAIM SET:

1. – 12. (cancelled).

13. (currently amended) A biologically pure culture of *Klebsiella pneumoniae* B-44 [[B 44]] (IFO 16579), which is capable of producing 2-deoxyribose-5-phosphate aldolase and triose-phosphate isomerase but substantially no phosphatase.

14. (withdrawn) A method of preparing 2-deoxyribose-5-phosphate, comprising:
reacting glyceraldehyde 3-phosphate and acetaldehyde in the presence of the microorganism of claim 13 which contains 2-deoxyribose-5-phosphate aldolase or in the presence of 2-deoxyribose-5-phosphate aldolase derived from a microorganism of claim 13.

15. (withdrawn) A method of preparing 2-deoxyribose-5-phosphate, comprising:
reacting dihydroxyacetone phosphate and acetaldehyde in the presence of the microorganism of claim 13 which contains 2-deoxyribose-5-phosphate aldolase and triose-phosphate isomerase or in the presence of 2-deoxyribose-5-phosphate aldolase and triose-phosphate isomerase derived from a microorganism of claim 13.